



Sen. Joe Zarelli
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Committee Assignments

- Ways & Means, Ranking Republican
- International Trade & Economic Development
- Rules

Town Halls

Saturday, March 19th:

10:00 – 11:30 am
Woodland Council
Chambers
230 Davidson Ave.
Woodland

1:00 – 2:30 pm
Hockinson High School
Library
16819 NE 159th Street
Brush Prairie

Important Dates:

**Tuesday, March 8th
from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00
p.m. there is a rally
scheduled in support
of the Defense of
Marriage Act (DOMA).**

Sen. Joe Zarelli's

UPDATE FROM OLYMPIA

3/4/05

Dear Friends,

This week marked the deadline for bills to pass their committee of origin. This means any bill (except those related to the budget or transportation) still in its original committee is considered dead. There were several good bills that died this week:

Senate Bill 5634 requires college credits and degrees earned for teacher salary increases to be verified by the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction to ensure they are from accredited institutions. Why is this important? KXLY News in Spokane recently reported that several teachers in the state were given pay raises based on false diplomas being passed out on the internet.

Senate Bill 5677 permanently revokes certificates of teachers found viewing sexually explicit material on school grounds. (Sponsored by Sen. Don Benton, R-Vancouver)

Senate Bill 5747 ties the state's automatic minimum wage increases to the state's unemployment rate. (I co-sponsored this bill)

Senate Bill 6049 authorizes small businesses to offer employees Health Savings Accounts. (I co-sponsored this bill)

I also wanted to let you know I will not support using one-time funds, such as the tobacco settlement money, to bridge the \$2.2 billion budget gap. Senate Democrats have publicly stated their intention of securitizing up to \$300 million of our state's portion of the tobacco settlement in order to lessen the blow of possible cuts in services.

It's no surprise they're talking about this now. In 2002, Senate Democrats sold well over a billion dollars of our tobacco settlement money in exchange for an immediate \$450 million cash payout. Not only did we lose out on over \$500 million for future budgets, we didn't solve the problem of government overspending! In fact, part of the reason we're in the budget crunch we're in is because of this decision three years ago. The same will happen again if we take the easy way out and use one-time monies for existing programs. We'll get an unsustainable budget and we'll have another deficit!

As always, feel free to contact me at any time.

Sincerely,

Sen. Joe Zarelli, 18th Legislative District

District Day – You are invited!

The 18th Legislative District Day will be held on Wednesday, March 23. The day will include a tour of the newly-refurbished Legislative Building, lunch (**bring your own brown-bag lunch**) with myself, Rep. Orcutt and Rep. Curtis, a tour of the Governor's Mansion and a tour of the Temple of Justice. We will start the day at 10:00 a.m. in the State Reception Room, located in the Legislative Building. Please contact my office if